

## LETTERS

### Concerning incidence of rabies in Los Angeles City and Los Angeles County.

(COPY)

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
CITY OF LOS ANGELES

Los Angeles, April 26, 1938.

*To the Editor:*—As per your request of recent date, I am enclosing herewith the information concerning rabies in animals and humans in the city and county of Los Angeles. These figures are for the years of 1935 to 1938. The report is made up by fiscal and calendar years, respectively. . . .

HYMAN I. VENER, M. D.,  
Assistant Epidemiologist.

#### Rabies for Fiscal Years (July 1-July 1): In Los Angeles City and County\*

	1935		1936		1937		1938	
	City	County	City	County	City	County	City	County
Dogs .....	234	.....	368	.....	579	.....	.....	.....
Cats .....	3	.....	6	.....	9	.....	.....	.....
Humans .....	0	.....	1	.....	1	2	.....	.....
						(exclusive of city)		
Miscellaneous:								
Cows .....	2	.....	.....	.....	4	10	.....	1
Horses .....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Raccoons .....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Mules .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	1	.....	.....
Rabbits .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	1	.....	.....
Goats .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	5	.....	.....
Sheep .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....
Rats .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....

#### Rabies for Calendar Years: January to December

	1935		1936		1937		1938	
	City	County	City	County	City	County	City	County
Dogs .....	259	520*	358	806	847	1,730	117	450
Cats .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	20	.....	3
Humans .....	1	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	2	.....

\* Totals for county include city cases.

### Concerning rabies.†

(COPY)

LOS ANGELES CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

FIFTY YEARS OF SERVICE: "VISION TO SEE, FAITH  
TO BELIEVE, COURAGE TO DO"

Los Angeles, California,  
May 14, 1938.

*To the Editor:*—We have received your very interesting letter of May 5, with a copy of the May issue of the official journal of the California State Medical Association calling attention to the rabies situation in Los Angeles.

We believe you are handling the matter in a very fair and sensible way. This Chamber is certainly interested in this matter because it is one of those many things which deter people from coming here, not only for a visit, but to locate permanently.

Oftentimes such a situation can be magnified to such an extent back East that we would have an even worse scare than we periodically have when there is an outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease or an occasional outbreak of plague, serious as they are.

We believe the constituted authorities should proceed in every way to eliminate the stray dogs. These dogs appear to be the chief menace to the proper control of rabies.

With appreciation of your interest and with kind regards, I am

Very truly yours,

LOS ANGELES CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

Arthur G. Arnoll,  
Secretary and General Manager.

† See also press items concerning rabies on page 471.

### Concerning court decision of interest to doctors, hospitals, and special nurses.

(COPY)

May 3, 1938.

*To the Members of the Attending Staff of the California Hospital:*

A knowledge of important points may assist you in avoiding liability.

#### A Recent Case

Plaintiff, a former hospital patient, brought action for \$25,000 damages against the doctor, special nurses, and the hospital for alleged hot water bottle burns.

The following facts were brought out at the trial:

The patient entered the hospital for urological surgery. Special nurses were called by a surgeon from District No. 5 list. After surgery he was in extreme shock and a special nurse placed a hot water bottle between his knees. Thereafter a small red area appeared under one leg, above the knee. After leaving the hospital, this area on his leg showed a necrosis. The doctor had quoted a total price of \$300 to cover hospital, special nurses, and doctors. The money was deposited at the hospital, which acted as disbursing agent, and paid the doctor \$225.

The judge granted a nonsuit as to the hospital and two of three special nurses.

The jury in its verdict decided the injury was due to the hot water bottle placed by the special nurse. The doctor, however, was held for \$5,000 damages, as they decided the special nurse was the agent of the doctor due to contract of \$300.

#### Suggestions

We feel these suggestions are important:

1. Do not make flat-rate contracts to include hospital and special nurses.
2. Do not agree to pay the hospital or the special nurses.
3. The patient or relatives should understand that when a special nurse is needed they may choose their own nurse, or that nurses will be called from the register as an accommodation for the patient; and nurses must be paid directly by the patient, or by hospital for the patient, upon patient's written authority.
4. If the patient is to deposit the money at the hospital for payment of doctors and nurses, explain that this is an accommodation only.
5. Let the patients know that the hospital is a nonprofit charitable institution.

Very truly yours,

THE CALIFORNIA HOSPITAL.

Mr. R. E. Heerman,  
Superintendent.

### Concerning conditions in China.\*

*To the Editor:*—We are still here in Hong Kong trying to learn Chinese. It is slow to acquire, but is interesting. Dr. and Mrs. Stanton May are studying Mandarin, but Mrs. Wagner and I are studying Cantonese. We expect to spend full time in language study for about three months yet. Perhaps I shall go to Canton then to be with Dr. Floyd Bates for a time before he leaves on furlough. I have spent two days with him in Canton. He has been doing a good work there, particularly in tuberculosis, but it has been greatly hindered by the present conflict.

Doctor May and I visited the Hong Kong University and met the dean of the medical faculty and the professors of anatomy and surgery. I plan to attend the surgical rounds of Doctor Digby and his laboratory classes in operative surgery, and if my language study schedule can be arranged, may spend some time in anatomical dissection.

There is much illness among the Chinese, and a person does not wonder at it when he sees their living habits. Their living quarters are small, dirty, and unheated. Some of them cannot afford rooms and sleep on the pavement with a mat for a mattress and a block of wood for a pillow. The weather at times is quite cool and we have had fire in

\* From a letter received by the *Journal of the Alumni Association of the College of Medical Evangelists* from Dr. Ernest Wagner bearing the date of January 17. Doctor Wagner was formerly a resident at the White Memorial Hospital, Los Angeles.